

Robertson, J

N

December 1914

205
294 Avenue Road,

Toronto, Ont.,

December 8/14.

R.A. Falconer, Esq.,

President Toronto University,

Dear Sir:-

ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT

I have noted the discussion in the press regarding the Oriental Department and I have thought that perhaps my services might be useful to the University for a few months.

I graduated in 1897 in the Oriental Department with honors, obtaining 72 1/2% of the total marks offered. At the same time I pursued the Classical course. After graduation I taught school some years and later went to Cuba where I spent some six years, learning Spanish thoroly. I am told by gr. José Pijoan (known to Prof. Mavor) that I speak Spanish better than any foreigner with whom he is acquainted. As there is a large proportion of Arabic words in Spanish, I have devoted considerable time to reviewing my Arabic of which I have now a good working knowledge. Last winter I translated three volumes into English "Leyendas Moriscas", the Spanish being untranslatable without some knowledge of Arabic.

I have been a member of the American Oriental Society since 1902.

I am now attending the Dental College here with a view to going back to Cuba as a dentist but it would not be impossible for me to drop this work temporarily to assist in the Oriental department, provided the remuneration were adequate.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Robertson

294 Avenue Road,

Toronto, Ont.,

December 9th 1914

R.A. Falconer, esq.,

President Toronto University,

C I T Y,

Dear Sir:-

ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT

I take the liberty of recommending to your notice a very estimable Persian exile in New York who is highly spoken of by Prof. Browne and others. He is an adept in Arabic, Persian, Turkish etc. besides being able to read, speak and write English. I drew pr. Mc Gurdy's attention to him last winter as Taki-Zadeh is desirous of obtaining some University appointment however meagre the salary might be. I recommended last winter that he study Hebrew as that was the staple Oriental language taught in Western Universities but I cannot say whether or not he has done so. Certainly with his knowledge of Arabic the vocabulary of Hebrew should not be a matter of difficulty.

With Taki-Zadeh is also Reza Khan educated in Urumia American college. He was attached to the Persian legation at Washington until the Persian revolution. He was in Toronto last winter and I presented him to Dr. McCurdy. He knows the same languages as Taki-Zadeh. Their address in New York is c/o the Teheran Rug Co. 5th Avenue (possibly living at 246 West 24th st. still.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to Mr. Nrebner

J. N. Robertson

December 10th, 1914

J. N. Robertson, Esq.,
294 Avenue Road,
Toronto.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter offering your services for work in the Oriental Department and also bringing to my notice a Persian who is an adept in Arabic, Persian, etc. I do not think that it is at all probable that we shall employ any extra help for the work of our Oriental Department. If we are unable to effect an exchange it is probable that any work that has to be done may be arranged for otherwise.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

render to his country there and here respectively, without for a moment taking into consideration the grave danger he incurred by returning, he decided to respond to their call, and left Cambridge for Tabriz, which he reached with much difficulty and risk, at the end of November, 1908, knowing well what would be his fate should the city unhappily fall into the hands of the Royalists.

"London Daily TIMES"

March 7, 1913

Not all the high-born grandees in Persia could produce between them a spark of the clear flame that lit the spirit of Taqi-Zadeh. Him they hounded forth, untitled and unhonoured, to the exile that is still his fate, fearing the honest eloquence which made the common people hear him gladly.



A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE LIFE
OF THE FAMOUS TABRIZ DEPUTY,
S. H. TAQI-ZADEH

Taqi-Zadeh, the son of one of the great Mudiehids of Tabriz, is a graduate of the Tabriz Government University, and also of the American School in the same city.

As a recognition of his position as publisher of well known *Guendine-e-Funoon Review*, and of his untiring efforts for the freedom of Persia, he was, in 1906, nominated and elected to the Persian Parliament as member for Tabriz.

During the bombardment of the Parliament by Shah Mohammed Ali, in June, 1908,

Taqi-Zadeh was forced to seek shelter in the British legation, and, through the efforts of the Minister, was subsequently allowed to leave the country for London, where he continued his struggle for the freedom of Persia and the Persian people. As a result of his efforts the "Persia Committee" was formed, in London, consisting chiefly of members of the British Houses of Parliament.

Forgetting the great personal risk he ran, and remembering only how much he could accomplish at home for his country at this critical stage, in November, 1908, he returned with great difficulty to Tabriz, and after the deposition of the Shah, in June, 1909, he re-entered Teheran, the Capital, where he was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic gathering of his fellow countrymen, and immediately elected a member of the "Directoire," consisting of twenty selected men who assumed absolute control of public affairs, until the final permanent exile of the ex-Shah.

To still further show their confidence in him, Taqi-Zadeh, in August of the same year, was elected to the Second Parliament (Mellise) by both Tabriz and Teheran. As he could serve but one constituency his choice naturally fell upon Tabriz, for which he had sat in the First Persian Parliament.

Very soon afterward he became leader of the Democratic Party.

WHAT PROFESSOR E. G. BROWN OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND,

SAYS OF TAQI-ZADEH, IN HIS BOOK, "THE PERSIAN REVOLUTION"

Amongst the Deputies elected was the young Sayyid Hasan the son of Taqi, commonly known as Taqi-Zadeh, who despairing of Tabriz, had already started for Teheran on September 3d, and who was destined to play a leading, as well as a very noble part in subsequent events.

I was greatly struck by the famous Tabriz member Taqi-Zadeh, who was sitting quite close to me in the tribune. He had won deserved fame by his fearless independence and wonderful grasp of political affairs. There is something so sympathetic in his face, so attractive, with eyes sparkling with cheerful animation, but yet dimmed at times, especially as he leaned forward to look at the crowd, by that expression which belongs to the dreamer beneath the man of action, a face that inspires confidence. If I am not mistaken he is of those whose genius is capable of inspiring great enthusiasm, great sacrifices, and whose influence leaves a lasting impression of the history of nations.

Taqi-Zadeh was spoken of as being very well informed as to the political ideas current in Europe; sincere, resolute, eloquent and tactful altogether a very remarkable man.

When first made, Taqi-Zadeh's assertion was scouted by the Times as a "Persian fairy-tale", but its truth was subsequently proved by the Blue Book. (Persia, No. 1, 1909: Cd. 4581) No. 175 pp. 139-140.

On August 7th, the day on which the Zillu's-Sultan was arrested, the brave and upright Tabriz deputy, Sayyid Taqi-Zadeh, made a triumphal entry into Teheran escorted by large numbers of Nationalists. A year before he had left the shelter of the British Legation under a guarantee of personal safety provided that he remain in exile for a year and a half. All that I saw of him only served to confirm and deepen the favourable impression already produced by the reports of common friends. He struck me as a man equally remarkable for his high-minded disinterestedness, his honesty, his veracity, and his courage. I never knew him to make a rash or reckless statement, and even those of his assertions which seemed at first most incredible were, I think, in every case subsequently proved true by independent evidence. He was a clear and forcible speaker in Persian, arranging his subject-matter well, and it was always a pleasure to me to translate for him at the meeting he addressed in London and at Cambridge. While Tabriz was making a heroic defence, two months before the blockade was established, his friends in that town wrote to him repeatedly, urging him to join them, and having, weighed carefully the services he could hope to